

Beauregard House
Chalmette
St. Bernard County
Louisiana

HABS No. LA-187

HABS
LA
44-CHALM

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
Louisiana District

Historic American Buildings Survey

Prepared at Washington Office

"RENÉ BEAURFGARD HOUSE" (Residence)
Chalmette St. Bernard Parish Louisiana

Owner

Southern Railway System
Terminal Station, New Orleans, Louisiana

Date of Erection

1840

Architect

James Gallier, Sr.

Builder

Unknown

Present Condition

Poor. North wing has collapsed. Wings at each end of house are additions. Entire first floor has rotted out. Walls, roof and columns of main house are still in good condition.

Number of Stories

Two stories with attic

Materials of Construction

Main house and columns of brick stuccoed. North wing brick, south wing frame. Slate roof, with cypress framing. Plaster walls and ceilings.

Other existing Records

New Orleans States, June 1, 1924
N. Scott and W. P. Spratling "Old Plantation
Houses in Louisiana" Wm. Helburn Co., 1927
p. 159

Additional Data

Attached hereto

**DATA NOT COMPILED AND NOT GUARANTEED
BY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS**

January 11, 1935

Additional Data

RENÉ BEAUREGARD HOUSE

In St. Bernard Parish a mile below the City of New Orleans and adjoining the field of Chalmette where the Battle of New Orleans was fought in 1815, is the René Beauregard House. Originally called BUENO RETIRO, the house was built in 1840 by James Gallier, Sr., architect for the Marquis de Trava.

According to J. P. Coleman, writing in the New Orleans States June 1, 1924, the house was subsequently occupied by. . . "Judge René Bréauregard, eldest son of General P. G. T. Beauregard of the Confederate Army, and J. A. Fernandez, who married the daughter of Alexander Lesseps. Judge Beauregard's brother Henry also lived there, having purchased the Bonzano property next door to Bueno Retiro. The Bonzano mansion disappeared some years ago, when the Southern Railway Company which also owns the Rene Beauregard House, purchased the property, demolished the house, and erected in its stead an immense warehouse, which now occupies the site."

The house represents a rather late development of the Louisiana plantation type. There is a colonnade of eight columns across both front and back of the house, the main body of which is only one room deep. The plan is extremely simple, there being four rooms to each floor with

Rene Beauregard -

(1) Mrs. Alice Cenas, wife of Toutant Beauregard, November 28, 1904 and

(2) Rene Toutant Beauregard, November 28, 1904.

In the latter deed the property is mentioned as Bueno Retiro Place."

Deed from Mrs. Alice Cenas Beauregard recites the derivation of her title by her from Octave Toca, September 24, 1888, and deed from Rene Toutant Beauregard recites derivation by him from Mrs. Carmen Fernandez, June 4, 1880.

Mr. Fitzwilson continues: "We have been told the property is the Old Beauregard House, built by Gallier, Architect, for Marquis de Trava, and was called Bueno Retiro; it was purchased later by Judge Rene Beauregard, son of General G. T. Beauregard."

The following is also said to have been copied from St. Maurice Church Program, April 1912:

"The plantation patented to William Brown, 1812, subsequently subdivided; upper portion came to the Piernas Family-Chalmette Monument located thereon. Next tract is the United States Soldiers Cemetery. Next, Etienne Villavaso property. The succeeding properties became the home of Rene Beauregard, son of General G. T. Beauregard, after having been in possession of Madam Baron; then Martin Villavaso, who married Miss Cantrelle. Their daughter, Aglais, was the wife of Mr. Gallier, who built the French Opera House, Gallier Court, and the Old Louisiana National Bank on Common Street."

Rene Beauregard - pg. 3

a stair hall at the southeast end. The rooms at the northwest end are in a small wing, which was added at a later date than the original building, and which has recently collapsed. There is also a wing at the southeast end, apparently of the period of about 1890 and of a very bad design, detracting considerably from the appearance of the house which is otherwise good.

The walls of the house and the columns are of brick plastered and painted, the columns being white and the main body of the house a sort of apricot color with green blinds and white trim. The roof of the house which extends out over the colonnade is quite unique, being a hipped red-purple slate roof with a very graceful low triple pitch. There are two dormers front and rear and one at each end, placed rather high in the roof. The detail is poor throughout the house.

Perhaps the most interesting detail of construction is the chimney. There are in reality two chimneys which by means of an arch in the attic are joined together and come out of the roof just below the ridge as one.

In a letter dated April 17, 1934, addressed to the Historic American Buildings Survey in Louisiana, Mr. J. E. Fitz-wilson of the New Orleans Terminal Company (Southern Railway) says:

"The property, upon which what is known as the Rene Beauregard House is located, was conveyed to New Orleans Terminal Company in 1904 in two parcels by grantors of the name of Beauregard -

Rene Bearegard --

It is also said that the property was once owned by Augustin Macarte, a rich planter, at the time of the three battles of New Orleans, and was used by General Andrew Jackson as headquarters. The Battle of New Orleans was fought in 1815.

The house has not been used by the New Orleans Terminal Company since its acquisition; except perhaps as rented out from time to time by local tenants for dwelling purposes. It was occupied by troops for a time during the World War, and has been vacant since. It is at present in such condition as to be untenable.

January 11, 1935

Samuel Wilson, Jr.

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Revised 1936, H.C.F.